

REMARKS

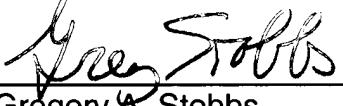
Claims 8-11 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CONCLUSION

Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A dielectric resonator filter comprising:

~~a plurality of dielectric resonators;~~

~~an enclosure enclosing the plurality of dielectric resonators to function as a shield against an electromagnetic field; and~~

~~a plurality of resonance frequency tuning means provided on a one-by-one basis for the plurality of dielectric resonators, each of the plurality of resonance frequency tuning means including a conductor plate disposed in a space enclosed by the enclosure to have a first surface opposed to a surface of the corresponding one of the dielectric resonators and a second surface opposed to an inner surface of the enclosure, the resonance frequency tuning means being capable of changing distances between the conductor plates and the dielectric resonators,~~

~~the conductor plate of at least one of the plurality of resonance frequency tuning means having a size different from sizes of the conductor plates of the other resonance frequency tuning means~~

at least one dielectric resonator;

an enclosure enclosing the dielectric resonator to function as a shield against an electromagnetic field;

resonance-frequency tuning means including a conductor plate disposed in a space enclosed by the enclosure to have a first surface opposed to a surface of the dielectric resonator and a second surface opposed to an inner surface of the enclosure, the resonance-frequency tuning means being capable of changing the separation between the conductor plate and the dielectric resonator; and

a threaded nut for suppressing propagation of a spurious electromagnetic field mode produced in and around a space between the second surface of the conductor plate and the inner surface of the enclosure, said threaded nut being disposed between the second surface of the conductor plate and the inner surface of the enclosure and threaded on to said tuning means; and

wherein said threaded nut is threadedly adjustable within the space between the second surface of the conductor plate and the inner surface of the enclosure independent of the separation between the first surface of the conductor plate and the dielectric resonator to control the suppression of the spurious electromagnetic field mode.

9. (currently amended) The dielectric resonator filter of claim 8, wherein the conductor plate of each of the resonance-frequency tuning means has a disk-shaped configuration said threaded nut is composed of a conductor material.

10. (currently amended) A dielectric resonator filter comprising:

~~a plurality of dielectric resonators including an input-stage dielectric resonator for receiving a high-frequency signal from an external device and an output-stage dielectric resonator for outputting the high-frequency signal to an external device;~~

~~an enclosure enclosing the plurality of dielectric resonators to function as a shield against an electromagnetic field;~~

~~input coupling means for coupling the inputted high-frequency signal and an electromagnetic field in the input-stage dielectric resonator;~~

~~output coupling means for coupling the outputted high-frequency signal and an electromagnetic field in the output-stage dielectric resonator; and~~

~~an interstage-coupling tuning plate provided between those of the plurality of dielectric resonators having their respective electromagnetic fields coupled to each other to tune a strength of the electromagnetic field coupling,~~

~~at least one of both side surfaces of the interstage-coupling tuning plate having a cutaway portion provided therein~~

The dielectric resonator filter of claim 8, wherein said threaded nut is composed of a dielectric material.

11. (currently amended) The dielectric resonator filter of claim 10, ~~wherein the cutaway portion in the interstage-coupling tuning plate has a generally rectangular configuration~~ 8, wherein the geometric configuration of said threaded nut is substantially at least one of a hexagon, triangle, regular polygon and an irregular polygon.

12-18. (cancelled)